[July 99]

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Translation

Joint Statement

HUMANITARIAN MISSION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

(Yayasan HAK, Yayasan ETADeP, Caritas Dili, Yayasan Kasimo, Posko Bantuan Darurat Untuk Pengungsi Internal, Timor Aid)

The situation of internally displaced people (IDP's) in East Timor is worsening by the day. They must face intimidation, terror; their houses are burned; the health condition is very poor with a high mortality rate due to disease and lack of adequate food. Since the announcement of the two options by President Habibie many militia groups have been formed in East Timor. This has led to intimidation by militia in order to force a certain political interest, causing tens of thousands of displaced. These IDP's can be found in Raimate, Sare, Kecamatan Hatolia, Kabupaten Ermera; in Kampung Faulara Desa Leotola, Kec. Liquica, Kecamatan Maubara; in Kecamatan Atabae and in Suai. These IDP's face systematic terror, intimidation, rape, which is aimed to force them to follow a certain political intersest.

Responding to this situation, a number of NGOs in Dili made the initiative to conduct a joint delivery of humanitarian aid to overcome the problem of access due to security threats which have been experienced up to this point. On Juky 2nd this joint mission was carried out, bringing with us 25 tons of rice, cooking utensils, medicines, salt, sugar, to be distributed to IDP's in Sare, and in Fanlara, respectively 3800 and 3000 IDP's in the two locations. UNAMET and UNCHR came with the NGO mission to conduct their own independent assessment and observe the distribution. UNHCR and UNAMET also assisted in the coordination with local authorities. Before the departure of the Humanitarian Mission coordination with the local government was conducted (See Chronology.) However, in our journey home, the Humanitarian Mission was attacked by Besi Merah Putih milita, causing a number of NGO workers to be hurt. Until now, an IDP who came with us, Jose Manus Marcal, 70 years, for medical treatment in Dili is stil unknown. After the attack of the Humanitarian Mission, there are now allegations by Police and others that firearms were seen in a UNAMET vehicle. This is part of the manipulation of facts which is conducted to discredit our Humanitarian Mission (See Chronology).

Since the Humanitarian mission has left Sare and Faulara, we have no access to the IDP's. We are concerned that their situation will worsen, due to food shortages, lack of medical care, lack of security. The IDP's are concerned for their safety as they have received threats of an attack if they accept aid.

Looking at the situation of IDP's and the violent acts conducted by Besi Merah Putuh militia, the Humanitarian Mission states the following.

- We condemn the violence and intimidation by militia who have burned houses, raped, [illegible] the population

- We condemn the government for not taking action to alleviate the suffering of the IDP's.
- We condemn the brutal militia attack on the Humanitarian Mission in Liquiça on July 4 1999.
- We condemn the Indonesian police officials in Liquisa who allowed this to take place, without taking steps to prevent this incident.
- We condemn the discriminative actions by the police who handled this case, allowing the perpetrators to roam around town, instead interrogating a few members of the Humanitarian Mission.
- We condemn the attempts to engineer the attack by security forces, and the manipulation of facts and a disinformation campaign through media.

The Humanitarian Mission thus demands:

- POLRI, being responsible for security, to disarm and disband all militia who are a threat to the East Timorese population. This is in accordance to the Peace Agreement of 21 April 1999 in Dili and the Peace Agreement of 18 June in Jakarta.
- POLRI to conduct legal process that is transparant and objective to the perpetrators of the attack on the Humanitarian Mission.
- POLRI to return vehicles of the Humanitarian Mission which is now being held at the Kapolres Liquisa.

To ensure the success of the popular ballot and for the safety of the IDPs, the Humanitarian Mission:

- Urges all parties to repect all humanitarian mission which is directed to all those who are suffering.
- Urges UNAMET to pressure the Indonesian government to punish those who attacked this mission and to withdraw TNI as agreed in the May 5th agreement.
- Urges all parties to respect the righ of IDP's and those who are suffering to recive aid and have protection.

This is our position and statement which we are making with deep concern towards the situation of the internally displaced and towards the attack on the Humanitarian Mission.

Dili, 6 Juli 1999

Yayasan HAK

Yayasan ETADeP

Caritas

Yayasan Kasimo

Timor Aid

Posko for Emergency Aid for IDP's

Chronology

Humanitarian Aid Mission to Sare and the Attack of BMP Militia on the Humanitarian Mission

Introduction

With the rise of militia activity in a number of regencies in the last eight months has led to an increase in violence perpetrated against the general population. Many have become victims of killings, *detention*, rape, torture, looting, losing their homes and their entire possesions when their houses are burned by militia. Because of these violent acts conducted by the militia, and supported by TNI (many TNI members have been seen posing as militia), many people are forced to leave their homes to seek a safety.

This humanitarian mission was a cooperation between local NGOs in Dili, including Posko for Emergency Aid to IDP's (Posko Dili), ETADEP, CARITAS, Timor Aid, Yayasan Kasimo, Bialtila, and Volunteers for Humanity from Jakarta. The mission brought more than 25 tons of food, including rice, oil, sugar, salt, milk, as well as non-food items such as mats, plastic sheets, cooking utensils and secondhand clothing.

Because of the problem of security and lack of access, the local NGOs cooperated with UNHCR who agreed to discuss the mission with the Indonesian authorities. UNAMET and UNHCR came along with this NGO humanitarian mission to conduct their own independent assesment of the IDP situation.

Thursday, July 1 1999
Morning: UNHCR and UNAMET humanitarian officer met with representatives of Lorosae to discuss police escort for the humanitarian mission. The police agreed, and asked for a confirmation later on in the day.
Evening: The police declined to provide an escort.

Friday, July 2 1999
Morning: UNHCR had an audience with the Governer to inform him of this mission.
Noon: The humanitarian mission, which was 55 NGO workers, left for Sare.

Saturday, July 3 1999
In Sare, the humanitarian mission found 3800 internally displaced people (IDP's) from 7 villages of Maubara sub-district; Vatuboro, Guico, Lisadila, Fatuboo, Maubaralisa, Babeknia, and Guguleur. The IDP's, who ran from attacks in their villages since February 1999, were in very poor condition. Many of the IDP's suffered from disease and malnourishment, associated with poor living conditions. According to the IDP's, at least 70 people have died from disease since February, and 5 have been killed by militia. The latest killing occurred on April 18th, when an IDP by the name of Silvanu (35 years) was killed when he attempted to go back to his village to get cassava from his garden for his family. The IDP's are living in the homes of the local people, building makeshift shacks or sharing simple accommodation and meagre resources. From one village, we received a list of 23 names of women who have been raped by militia. During our drive to Sare, we passed the

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villages of Guico and Lisadila where every single house was burned to the ground. The extremely poor condition of the IDP's reflect the isolation, continued terror experienced by the IDP's, exacerbated by the lack of access of humanitarian aid to this area.

From Etadep's base camp in Sare, the humanitarian mission was able to distribute 20 tons of rice to approximately 3800 IDP's and 1000 local community members. The medical team opened a day clinic which provided care and medicine for IDP's needing health care. Our monitoring team combed the area to assess the IDP situation and identify needs.

The hired trucks returned to Dili (approximately 8 am). They were met *by police* near Faiubou. On the way the passed two Toyota Kijang with *militia, as well as* SGI and military who shout out harrassments. Trucks stopped at the Liquisa Polres (police station). Two trucks were made to take Brimob members to Loidahar. When in Loidahar. BMP militia arrived and hit the two drivers. Brimob police did not do anything. The trucks were allowed to return to Dili after the attempts to summon the director of Etadep was unsuccessful.

In Sare, the humanitarian mission cut short its plans, responding to these signs of a security problems. We had discovered another group of 3000 IDP's in Faulara and decided to provide minimal assistance on our way back to Dili. The mission took back 10 IDP's who needed medical attention in Dili, at the recommendation of the medical team. The IDP's brought family members. In total, we had 55 NGO workers and 22 IDP's on this trip back to Dili.

Sunday, July 4 1999
Our convoy of 8 vehicles left for Faulara at 9 am after completing distribution and home visits in Sare. In Faulara we provided 3 tons of rice, other food and non-food items.. The medical team opened a clinic and provided care for more than 100 patients.

The IDP's had heard that if they received aid they would be attacked on Tuesday by militia.

UNAMET arranged a police escort with Polda in Dili who informed us that a police escort will be sent from the Liquisa police at 11 00.

By 1.45 pm the police escort had not arrived, the convoy decided to leave at 2 pm.

Approximately 3 pm, the convoy arrived in Loes, Desa Vatuboro, Kec.Maubara. Coincidentally, we passed a UNAMET carrying 2 MLO (Military Liason Officer). They agreed to escort us to Liquisa.

Between Maubara and Morai, our convoy stopped briefly to speak to the Carmalite nuns from Maubara who were passing us. At that time, a yellow truck filled with armed militia passed us, heading towards Maubara and Loes. Where we stopped, there were two men on a parked motorbike drinking beer. They shouted at us "BMP members have been killed. If you want war, let's fight." We did not reppond to those calls and continued our journery home.

Approximately 4 pm in Liquica Town, as we passed the house of the regent and turned right (heading South) the convoy stopped in front of the Kodim (*military command*) *in Liquisa*. The UNAMET humanitarian officer walked out of his car to talk to the MLO officers at the back of the

convoy who were leaving us in Liquisa. Because of the truckful of militia which passed our convoy was heading to the direction of Maubara, the humanitarian officer was requesting that a UNAMET visit to the IDP's site was conducted there the following day. The discussion took a few minutes in order to draw a map to the location.

Because the road was at an angle, and we were blocking traffic, the convoy moved further up the road, turning left and parked in front of the KUD Kutulau (cooperative) before the Liquisa cemetery. Members of our mission got off our vehicles, to buy bottled water, cigarrettes. Some of us were still in the vehicles, others standing on the road, or sitting on the stoops of the stores.

A blue minibus from the direction of the Koramil (South) filled with armed militia The militia were waving their weapons and screaming "Kill, kill" at members of the humanitarian mission.

Indonesian police and intellegence members at the location watched this happening, without reacting.

Members of the humanitarian mission were pursued by militia with guns, knifes, and machetes. UNAMET personnel attempted to intervene, to protect the NGO workers from the attacks of the militia. Gunshots were fired.

Members of the humanitarian mission scrambled into some of our vehicles, and the UNAMET vehicle. We were pursued by the milita, who also hung onto the UNAMET car, smashed the windows. At one point a traditional gun was pointed into the car. One of our members saw a traditional gun dropped into the car in the fracas.

62 out of our contingent of 77 escaped to the Kapolres in Liquica. At the Kapolres, humanitarian mission members were treated roughly by some members of the the police as if we were the accused.

A traditional gun was found in the floor of the UNAMET car. This gun was given to the Liquisa police for evidence.

UNAMET personnel being evacuated from Liquisa joined us at the Kapolres

After a while, the 10 members were brought from the Kapolsek. Those who were held at the Kapolsek were intimidated and interrogated.

After negotiations between UNAMET police and local police, we were allowed to leave with the UNAMET convoy to the Dili Kapolda where we would be questioned. We were short 5 NGO workers and 1 refugee.

We arrived late night in Dili. After negotiations between Kapolda and UNAMET, the humanitarian mission was allowed to leave Polda together with UNAMET personnel.

Monday, July 5 19[illegible]

The 5 NGO workers still missing returned separately by bus from Liquisa in the morning after hiding overnight. Still unaccounted for is a 70 year old displaced man, Jose Manos da Silva Marcal, who had come with us from Sare for medical treatment in Dili.